



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building

55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

October 20, 2006

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:


In an effort to improve quality in Maryland's nursing homes, the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is providing the enclosed information that is available to all nursing facilities via the Internet. Please remember that this is just a guide to assist, and the information is not all inclusive.

The listing includes new and revised federal and State Regulations, Guidance, Protocols, and Transmittals and the corresponding Web sites. Additionally, there is a listing of Web sites that the OHCQ considers helpful.

It is important that each facility keep abreast of changing regulation and guidance, and the OHCQ encourages facilities to review these Web sites frequently and make changes to policies and practices accordingly. In order to stay current, it is helpful and efficient to have a dedicated employee assigned to regularly review these Web sites.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Technical Assistance Coordinator, Linda Masterson, RN at (410) 402-8008 or via e-mail at lmasterson@dhmh.state.md.us. The OHCQ hopes that this information helpful.

Very truly yours,


Wendy A. Kronmiller
Director



What's Up

10/20/2006

New Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Guidance and Protocols

Pressure Ulcer (F-tag 314) – effective November 12, 2004

Urinary Incontinence and Catheter Care (F-tag 315) – effective June 27, 2005

Complete Revision to Chapter 5, Complaint Procedures -- effective March 17, 2006

Medical Director (F-tag 501) – effective November 28, 2006

Activities & Activities Director (F- tag 248 and 249) – effective June, 2006

Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide – effective June 8, 2006

Quality Assessment and Assurance (F- tag 520 and 521) – effective June 1, 2006

Posting of Staffing (F- tag 356) – effective June, 2006

Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations (F- tag 334) - effective October 15, 2006

Unnecessary Drugs (F- tag 329) – effective December 18, 2006

Pharmacy Service (F- tag 425) – effective December 18, 2006

Drug Regimen Review (F- tag 428) – effective December 18, 2006

Labeling of Drugs and Biologicals (F- tag 431) – effective December 18, 2006

Quality of Care: Assessment and Management of Pain (F- tag 309) – effective date pending

Nutritional Status (F- tag 325) – effective date pending

Sanitary Conditions (F - tag 371) – effective date pending

*****To view final copies of the above referenced Guidance and Protocols visit
www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/**

*****CMS issues Survey & Certification (S&C) letters to announce new, revised, and/or clarification to regulations, protocols, or guidance. To view the S&C letters visit
www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/PMSR/list.asp**

Advancing Excellence for America's Nursing Homes campaign was launched September 29, 2006. This campaign is a voluntary program where a facility selects three to eight goals to work on in their own internal quality improvement efforts. To view information regarding this campaign, visit www.nhqualitycampaign.org or www.MedQIC.org

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Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ)

Visit OHCQ's website frequently at www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq. At this site you will find new, revised and/or clarified State regulations, Clinical Alerts, and Transmittals from the Director, Wendy Kronmiller.

Ensure review and completion of the Pressure Ulcer Rate Improvement Program 2006 form. This form can be downloaded from the OHCQ website. If you should have any questions regarding this initiative, contact Linda Masterson at 410-402-8008. Please note this form is due to OHCQ by January 10, 2007.

Transmittal on Voter registration & Absentee Voting issued August 7, 2006

Transmittal on Seclusion and Restraints issued August 9, 2006

Transmittal on Community Long Term Care Services issued August 17, 2006

C.O.M.A.R. 10.07.02.07-1 Employee Training on Cognitive Impairment and Mental Illness – effective date – unknown, but no earlier than 12/18/06

Review and update the Emergency Disaster Preparedness Checklist on annual basis and submit to Linda Masterson by January 30th every year. This form can be downloaded from the OHCQ website

Infection Control

To keep abreast of changes in Infection Control, visit www.cdc.gov.

For preparation for Pandemic Flu/Avian Flu, visit www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/LongTermCareChecklist.html to download a checklist to assist you in planning and development of a Pandemic Flu plan.

Another resource for epidemiology and infection control updates is www.edcp.org.

For specific questions related to infection control contact the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) nurse consultant Dr. Brenda Roup at 410-767-6704 or e-mail at Broup@dhmh.state.md.us. Request to be added to her listserv to automatically receive updates.

Review and implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines for Tuberculosis, effective 12/30/200; visit the CDC website at: <http://www.CDC.gov>
Isolation guidelines

Advance Directives

New Sample Maryland Advance Directive form (note: other forms remain valid)
Patient Plan of Care Form (required to be offered in Maryland nursing homes)
www.oag.state.md.us/healthpol